

The Tables below list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. Although Alco Water Service had the water tested for hundreds of constituents, the following tables list only those that were detected. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. CDPH allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

- ❖ **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- ❖ **Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS):** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
- ❖ **Secondary Drinking Water Standard (SDWS):** MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.
- ❖ **Public Health Goal (PHG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.
- ❖ **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).
- ❖ **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- ❖ **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- ❖ **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**mg/l** = milligrams per liter or parts per million (ppm)  
**ND** = Not Detectable at testing limit  
**NTU** = Nephelometer Turbidity Unit  
**MFL** = Million Fibers per Liter  
**µg/l** = micrograms per liter or parts per billion (ppb)  
 < means "less than"  
**pCi/L** = picoCuries per liter (a measure of radiation)  
**µmhos/cm** = micromhos per centimeter  
**N/A** = Not Applicable

<b>Lead &amp; Copper (&amp; reporting units)</b>	<b># of samples collected</b>	<b>90<sup>th</sup> percentile level detected</b>	<b># of Sites exceeding AL</b>	<b>AL</b>	<b>PHG</b>	<b>Typical Source of Contaminant</b>
Lead (µg/l)	30	ND	0	15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (mg/l)	30	0.850	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	1/2005 to 11/2011	1.851	0.521 to 4.51	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-228 (pCi/L)	12/2006 to 11/2011	0.083	0.000 to 0.603	5	0.019	Erosion of natural deposits
Aluminum (µg/l)	9/2009 to 3/2011	5	ND to 31	1,000	600	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (µg/l)	9/2009 to 3/2011	4.5	2.9 to 7 †	10	0.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards, glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (µg/l)	9/2009 to 3/2011	50	ND to 70	1,000	2,000	Discharge of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (µg/l)	9/2009 to 3/2011	3.2	ND to 5.9	50	(100)	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (mg/l)	9/2009 to 3/2011	0.38	0.23 to 0.5	2.0	1	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead (µg/l)	9/2009 to 3/2011	0.29	ND to 0.6	AL = 15	0.2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (mg/l) (as nitrate, NO <sub>3</sub> )	3/2011 to 2/2012	14.8	4.5 to 31 ††	45	45	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (µg/l)	9/2009 to 3/2011	0.4	ND to 1.4	50	30	Discharge from petroleum, glass, and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines and chemical manufacturers; runoff from livestock lots (feed additive)

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Average Level Detected	Range of Detections	Notification Level	Typical Source of Contaminant
Boron (µg/l)	9/2009 to 3/2011	64	ND to 200	1,000	The babies of some pregnant women who drink water containing boron in excess of the notification level may have an increased risk of developmental effects, based on studies in laboratory animals.

While your drinking water meets the Federal and State standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

<sup>††</sup> Although the nitrate level does not exceed the MCL, the following educational statement is provided per CDPH requirements: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 45 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

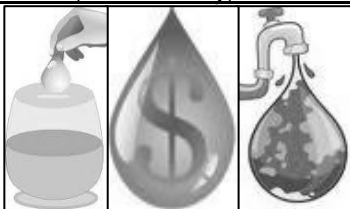
<sup>†††</sup> In compliance with State and Federal regulations, Alco Water Service disinfects its water distribution system by injecting a sodium hypochlorite solution (chlorine) into the water at the well pump stations. The sodium hypochlorite solution is a weak solution (about 0.8%, as compared to the approximate 5.2% of household bleach) generated onsite by combining salt, water and electricity to chemically react to form the sodium hypochlorite solution. The "residual", or chlorine level that is found in the distribution system is monitored by Alco personnel and also by the independent sampler that collects bacteriological samples. Alco maintains the chlorine residual at a level in the range of 0.5 mg/l to 1.5 mg/l. In 2011, one of the 532 samples that the sampler collected was over the MCL for chlorine, at 4.8 mg/l. Alco staff worked with CDPH to investigate the higher-than-usual level of chlorine residual in the water distribution system, but all other samples collected for the investigation were found to be within the normal range. Although Alco's running annual average of chlorine residual is well under the MCL, the following health effects language is provided for your information: Some people who use water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience irritating effects to their eyes and nose. Some people who drink water containing chlorine well in excess of the MRDL could experience stomach discomfort.

***Any violation of an MCL or AL is asterisked. Additional information regarding any violation is provided in this report.***

## What Else Is New?

Alco is actively involved in encouraging its customers to conserve water, which it did this past year through the distribution of water conservation kits to many customers. Throughout the year, Alco also mailed and distributed water conservation educational materials to all of its customers. Alco service personnel continue to, upon request, meet with the public in the performance of leak evaluations at customers' homes and have onsite discussions with customers as to methods to improve the efficiency of their water consumption in both their landscaping and domestic use.

### Save Water, Save Money, Save the Planet!



### Did you know...?

- The average US household uses about 400 gallons of water per day – for most of us, that's about 100 gallons of water per person per day!
- A 5-minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water, compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath!
- Water efficient showerheads can save you up to 750 gallons a month!
- Fixing a toilet leak or replacing your old toilet with a more efficient model can save you up to 1,000 gallons a month!
- Shutting off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair or shaving can save you up to 500 gallons a month!

Alco staff hopes that you continue to conserve water and use it wisely. If you have any problems, questions, suggestions, or concerns, please call us during regular business hours, or leave a message after hours with our live answering service at (831) 424-0441. Or, you can visit us at our office or send us a note in the mail to Alco Water Service, 249 Williams Road, Salinas, CA 93905 or e-mail us at [mail@alcowater.com](mailto:mail@alcowater.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

*Your drinking water is safe, reliable,  
healthy, inexpensive, readily available  
and we deliver it right to you!  
Use your water wisely!*

**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**



**2011 Consumer Confidence Report**  
**Alco Water Service**  
**249 Williams Road**  
**Salinas, CA 93905**  
**(831) 424-0441 Phone**  
**(831) 424-0611 Fax**

Welcome to the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) 2011! It's that time of year again, when Alco shares important information about your water quality with you, our customers!

Alco monitors the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by State and Federal Regulations. This CCR is a summary of the quality of the water provided to you by Alco Water Service and shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2011. There is a list of important definitions and abbreviations of reporting units included in the CCR for your convenience.

If you have any questions about this information, please contact Thomas R. Adcock, Monday to Friday, 8AM to 5PM at (831) 424-0441. Any water related public meetings will be announced in water bill inserts or by direct mailing.

### What's new with your water service?

The staff at Alco has worked hard over the past year working with customers to improve customer service and helping to educate the public about the importance of water conservation in its many aspects, from reducing wasteful or unnecessary water use to fixing leaks and being more aware of where water goes once it enters your home!

As you are all probably aware, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) authorized an increase in Alco's rate effective in March of 2011, which brought with it a new, "tiered rate" program, which bills customers at a lower rate for lower water usage ( $\leq 10$  ccf) and a higher rate for higher water usage ( $> 10$  ccf). This method of incentivizing water conservation has been used by many public utilities and other water agencies to help urge customers to reduce their water bills by reducing their



water use. Alco is proud to report that its customers, you, reduced your water consumption by 1.49% from 2010 to 2011 and you saved 20,637,320 gallons – enough to fill 31 Olympic-sized swimming pools! Congratulations are due all around and Alco staff urges you to keep up the good work in 2012!

2011 also brought more, and continued, community service with it for Alco and its customers. With heightened security measures, Alco continues to be able to provide the City of Salinas Police Department with surveillance assistance in combating crime in the area around the improved pedestrian walkway from Burke Street and Camarillo Court to the Alisal High School. Alco was also recently able to provide assistance with La Plaza Rotario project at Closter Park, the aim of which is to improve the image of Closter Park and deter violence in the park and its surrounding neighborhoods. Alco is proud of the contributions it is able to make to help improve our community, which we have served for 80 years, since 1932! Alco is still a family-owned business and continues to be a family and community oriented company, serving its customers with pride and professionalism.

### Where does your water come from?

In 2011, Alco Water Service had 6 active water sources and 3 standby water sources, all of which are groundwater wells. The wells draw from two aquifers in the two sub-areas of the Salinas Groundwater Basin; the Pressure Area & the East Side Area. Source Water Assessments were performed in 2002 and are available for review at the utility's office. The water sources are most vulnerable to sewer collection systems, agricultural drainage, gas stations, parking lots / malls / high density housing, parks, irrigated crops, fertilizer / pesticide / herbicide applications, agricultural / irrigation / water supply wells, and photo processing / printing. Due to a change in the Federal Arsenic Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) to 10 parts per billion (ppb) in 2006, Alco removed 3 of its well sources from active service and obtained approval from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to change the wells to "standby" status. In November 2008, California also adopted the Federal MCL of 10 ppb. The 3 wells will remain out of service in standby status while Alco develops a method to reduce the Arsenic levels from these wells to comply with the new Federal MCL. All of Alco's active well sources comply with the Federal and State of California MCL of 10 ppb.



### Laboratory testing:

Alco Water Service contracts with independent, state-certified laboratories to monitor the quality of the water it provides to you. This helps us to provide you with the best quality water possible and to conform to CDPH regulations. Alco Water

Service also contracts with an independent sampler who collects all samples for monitoring purposes and delivers them to the independent laboratories directly. The laboratory water quality results contained in the table sections of this report are of detectable constituents only. This means that there was a detection of the constituent found in the water by the laboratory. The tables also include a list of the State and Federal standards so that you may compare the results of our water analyses to them. The water system tests for hundreds of regulated and unregulated constituents and submits the results to CDPH. The constituents that do not appear on the table are non-detectable. This means that there was no detection of the constituent found in the water by the laboratory.

### What can be found in water?

**The sources of drinking water** (both tap water & bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs & wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

### **Contaminants that may be present in source water include:**

- ✓ **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, & wildlife.



**LOOK INSIDE for tables containing your water quality results!**

- ✓ **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts & metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil & gas production, mining, or farming.
- ✓ **Pesticides & herbicides**, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, & residential uses.
- ✓ **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic & volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes & petroleum production, & can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, & septic systems.
- ✓ **Radioactive contaminants**, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

**In order to ensure** that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the CDPH prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDPH regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

### Additional Drinking Water Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Alco Water Service is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.